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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016907/1300

Applicant: Hidekazu SEKIZAWA

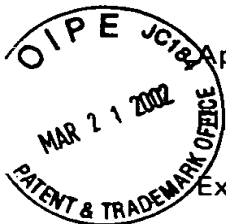
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 09/955,291

Filing Date: September 19, 2001

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Art Unit: Not yet assigned



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to applicants in order to comply with applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each of the listed documents is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission herewith of any document is not intended as an admission either that such document constitutes competent prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicants do not waive the right to take appropriate action to antedate any document that does not constitute a statutory bar and that is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application, or to otherwise remove such a document as a competent reference.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No fee is due.

Atty. Dkt. No. 016907/1300  
Serial No. 09/955,291



### RELEVANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS

Document A4 discloses a reference example of area identification technique.

Document A5 discloses that image data are stored in a compressed state and high image quality is achieved at the time when the image data are expanded.

English translations of documents A4 and A5 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for document A4 and A5.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

3/21/02  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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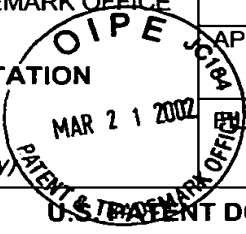
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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016907-1300	SERIAL NO. 09/955,291
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>		APPLICANT <b>Masatsugu HIRAYAMA</b>	
(Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE September 19, 2001	GROUP ART UNIT Not Yet Assigned

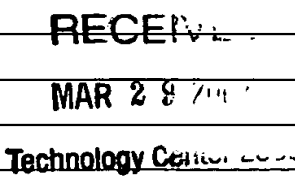


U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	4,926,251	5-15-1990	Sekizawa et al.	358	75	
	A2	6,342,950	1-29-2002	Tabata et al.	358	1.6	

U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	PUBLICATION DATE
	A3	2001-0016065	Yamamoto et al.	382	173	8-23-2001

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	A4	11-213152	8-6-1999	Japan			Abstract
	A5	7-95149	4-7-1995	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	



EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.